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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20544

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14 August 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20544

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Reference: Ultra-Wideband; ET Docket 98-153

Dear Ms. Salas:

During my active Air Force career, I served as Wing Commander, Command Director, and Assistant Chief of Staff, and was deeply involved in all security aspects of Air Force operations. I am currently a consultant to government and industry, and work in the areas of anti-terrorism and security policy. I also have served for many years as Chairman, Security Division, for the National Defense Industrial Association.

I recently became aware of Ultra-Wideband (UWB) technology using time-modulated RF and envision a number of security and public safety applications for this technology. It became evident to me that this technology can be used effectively to accomplish tasks that are critical to security operations that cannot be accomplished through other means. Use of very low power UWB radar, for example, could provide a "dome" of intrusion detection around aircraft and airfield facilities that would not interfere with communications or other operating radars.

It is evident to me that UWB technology has the potential to make many positive improvements in security operations. In another example from my experience, security personnel in indoor and urban environments encounter major problems by degraded communications capabilities, potentially creating dangerous, ambiguous situations for security response teams. It is my understanding that this new technology can overcome existing communications problems by providing covert communications that are reliable and static-free.

This technology also holds promise to assist autonomous landing guidance for aircraft and would aid in the commercial use of airfields that cannot afford microwave landing systems and are thus precluded from playing a role in passenger air operations.

The Notice of Proposed Rule Making recently announced by the FCC is the right forum for consideration of matters related to this technology in the many aspects of its public and private use. It is an emerging technology that requires evaluation now because of the benefits that it promises. I urge you to complete actions that would allow UWB to be placed into appropriate general use.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Smith, Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)